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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/665,668	09/20/2000	Larry B. Gray	JJI-49	5527
7590 08/27/2004				
Audley A. Ciamporcero, Jr., Esq. Johnson & Johnson One Johnson & Johnson Plaza New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003			EXAMINER BUI, VY Q	
			ART UNIT 3731	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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08202004

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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed 5/10/2004 has been entered and considered. The response to the "Reply Brief" is as follows:

1. After final rejection, amended claim 22 was not entered because said amended claim 22 does not appear to be allowable at least over the reference of record, SIMON-5,354,30, as indicated in "Remarks" section on page 7 of "Examiner's Answer" (paper 03/09/2004). Entering the amended claim 22 will cause further reconsideration of the claim and un-necessarily prolong the prosecution of this application.

2. SIMON-5,354,308's Fig. 9A shows a stent in a transition phase from an unexpanded configuration (when the stent is contained in a deployment catheter C) to an expanded configuration (when the stent expands outside the catheter C). At a position adjacent to the distal end of catheter C, Fig. 9A clearly indicates the stent in an unexpanded configuration having longitudinal wave-shaped struts.

3. The "Terminal Disclaimer" will be entered when the claims are in a condition for allowance.

The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

Vy Q. Bui
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3731